

Annotation and Note-Taking

Annotation and Note-taking are essential skills that can significantly enhance your learning and understanding of various subjects. Whether you are a student or a professional, mastering these techniques will prove invaluable in your journey to acquire knowledge and retain information effectively.

Definition: Annotation is the process of adding notes, comments, or highlights to a text, document, or any piece of information to provide context, explanations, and additional insights.

Purpose:

Improve comprehension: Annotations help to clarify complex concepts, unfamiliar terms, or ambiguous passages in the material.

Critical thinking: It encourages you to engage with the content actively and think critically about the ideas presented.

Knowledge retention: Annotated materials are easier to review and remember, as they encapsulate your thoughts and connections with the text.

Collaboration: Annotations can facilitate discussions and interactions with others, sharing insights and interpretations.

Techniques for Effective Annotation:

Highlighting: Use different colors to highlight key points, important facts, or sections that require further review.

Margin notes: Write short comments or questions in the margins to elaborate on concepts or link ideas to your personal experiences.

Underlining: Underline essential sentences or phrases that capture the main ideas of a paragraph or section.

Symbols and shorthand: Develop a set of symbols or shorthand to denote common concepts, connections, or emotions to save time and space.

Summarization: Summarize complex passages in your own words to reinforce understanding and condense the information.

Write a commentary on one of the following:

1. (a) business

3rd person
Tension
Small community
family dispute
honour
property ownership
inheritance
land
A = stubborn, self-confident

She was almost through with her figures when she heard a cart drive up to the gate, and looking out of the window she saw her two older brothers. They had seemed to avoid her ever since Carl's arrival, four weeks ago that day, and she hurried to the door to welcome them. She saw at once that they had come with some very definite purpose. They followed her stiffly into the sitting-room. Oscar sat down, but Lou walked over to the window and remained standing, his hands behind him.

"You are by yourself?" he asked, looking toward the doorway into the parlor.

"Yes. Carl and Phil went up to the Catholic fair."

For a few moments neither of the men spoke.

Then Lou came out sharply. "How soon does he intend to go away from here?"

"I don't know, Lou. Not for some time, I hope." Alexander spoke in an even, quiet tone that often surprised his brothers. They felt that she was trying to be superior with them.

Oscar spoke up gently: "We thought we ought to tell you that people have begun to talk," he said meaningly.

Alexandra looked at him. "What about?"

Oscar met her eyes steadily. "About you, keeping him here so long... it better not be like so by hanging out to a woman this way. People think you're getting taken in."

Alexandra shut her account-book climily. "Boys," she said sternly, "don't let's go on with this. We won't come out anywhere. I can't take advice on such a matter. I know you mean well, but you must not feel responsible for me in things of this sort. If we go on with this talk it will only make hard feeling."

Lou whipped about from the window. "You ought to think a little about your family. You're making an awful fuss about it."

"How an it?"

"People are beginning to say you want to marry the fellow."

"Well, and what is ridiculous about that?"

Lou and Oscar exchanged significant looks.

"Alexander! Can't you see he's just a simple land he's after your money? He wants to be taken care of, he does!"

"Well, suppose I want to take care of him? Whose business is it but my own?"

"Don't you know he'd get hold of your property?"

"He'd get hold of what I wished to give him, certainly."

Oscar set up suddenly and Lou clutched at his heavily hair.

"Give him!" Lou shouted. "Our property, our homestead!"

"I don't know about the homestead," said Alexandra quietly. "I know you and Oscar have always expected that it would be left to your children, and I'm not sure but what you might. But it'd do exactly as I please with the rest of my land, boys."

"The rest of your land!" cried Lou, growing more excited every minute. "Didn't all the land come out of the homestead? It was bought with money borrowed on the homestead, and Oscar and me worked ourselves to the bone paying interest on it."

21-40

TASK 2: RE-READING AND ANNOTATING [10-30 MINUTES]

PART ONE

Separating family interests
Work
Brothers = outward determined men vs. woman
Superior attitude
men/women's rights
Brothers worked
brain vs. brawn
the absent man, Carl
Money
She's independent - they're influenced Alex. forced by community to justify herself.

55
60
65
70
75
80

"Yes, you paid the interest. But when you married we made a division of the land, and you were satisfied. I've made more on my farms since I've been alone than when we all worked together."

"Everything you've made has come out of the original land that us boys worked for, hasn't it? The farms and all that comes out of them belongs to us now family."

Alexandra waved her hand impatiently. "Come now, Lou. Stick to the facts. You are talking nonsense. Go to the county clerk and ask him who owns my land, and whether my titles are good."

Lou turned to his brother. "This is what comes of letting a woman meddle in business," he said bitterly. "We ought to have taken things in our own hands years ago. But she liked to run things, and we buzzed her. We thought you had good sense, Alexandra. We never thought you'd do anything foolish."

Alexandra tapped impatiently on her desk with her knuckles. "Listen Lou. Don't talk wild. You say you ought to have taken things into your own hands years ago. I suppose you mean before you left home. But how could you take hold of what wasn't there? I've got most of what I have now since we divided the property. I've built it up myself, and it has nothing to do with you."

Oscar spoke up solemnly. "The property of a family really belongs to the men of the family, no matter about the title. If anything goes wrong, it's the men that are held responsible."

"Yes, of course," Lou broke in. "Everybody knows that. Oscar and me have always been easy-going and we've never made any fuss. We were willing you should hold the land and have the good of it, but you got no right to part with any of it. We worked in the fields to pay for the first land you bought, and whatever's come out of it has got to be kept in the family."

Oscar reminded his brother, his mind fixed on the one point he could see. "The property of a family belongs to the men of the family, because they are held responsible, and because they do the work."

Alexandra looked from one to the other, her eyes full of indignation. She had been impatient before but now she was beginning to feel angry. "And what about my work?" she asked in an unsteady voice.

Lou looked at the carpet. "Oh, now, Alexandra, you always took it pretty easy! Of course we wanted you to. You liked to manage round, and we always humored you. We realize you were a great deal of help to us. There's no reason any more around the house as much about business as you do, and we've always been proud of that, and thought you were pretty smart. But, of course, the real work always fell on us. Good advice is all right, but it don't get the weeds out of the corn."

"Maybe not, but it sometimes puts in the crop, and it sometimes keeps the fields for corn to grow in," said Alexandra dryly. "Why, Lou, I can remember when you and Oscar wanted to sell this homestead and all the improvements to old preacher Ericson for two thousand dollars. My father insisted you'd have gone down to the store and accepted along on your farm for the rest of your lives."

A. has done most to build up the business

Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!* (1913)

Adventure/hardship new frontiers

Turn over/Voir an dos/Vaise al decus
Sounds like a call - a rallying cry before a march